6th February 1924]

Muhammadan representation among Honorary Assistant Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

140 *Q.*—Mr. YAHYA ALI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no Mussalman appointed as an Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies in the Nellore district?

A.—It is so.

Criminal Justice.

Mr. Blackstone's Report.

141 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(i) whether Mr. Blackstone, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, has been engaged in making local investigations regarding the complaints and allegations that the people in some particular villages in the Penukonda and Dharmavaram divisions, Anantapur district, were helplessly enduring local tyranny and oppression?

(ii) if so,

(*a*) the names of the villages concerned and of the individuals complained against;

(*b*) the number of witnesses examined in support of the accusations, and the number examined in defence;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the result of the prolonged personal enquiry was a report that tyranny and oppression have been prevailing in the villages and that the perpetrators have enjoyed immunity from law and justice;

(*d*) a summary of the lawless and oppressive actions brought to light;

(*e*) the nature of the measures recommended in order to safeguard the people from such tyranny and oppression in future; and

(*f*) whether Mr. Blackstone's report was forwarded to the District Magistrate for his opinion, and if so, whether the District Magistrate did or did not support the recommendation of the Police?

A.—It is true that Mr. Blackstone, as Deputy Inspector-General, Central Range, was instructed by the Inspector-General of Police in July last to hold an inquiry into certain allegations of oppression and high-handed action on the part of two brothers Bayappa and Govinda Reddi of Pamudurti village in the Penukonda taluk and of their agents and supporters. The inquiry, which was completed in about two months and which involved the examination of 201 witnesses in the Penukonda taluk in support of the allegations and 66 for the defence, showed that there were good reasons for believing that the two brothers have for some time been guilty of many illegal acts including the extortion of money by various methods, the usurpation of powers that rightly belong to the Government and the defrauding of Government revenues.

[6th February 1924

On receipt of the report and after due consideration of the remarks of the Inspector-General of Police and the District Magistrate thereon the Government decided to reopen the police station at Pamudurti which was closed some years ago and to watch the result of this step before considering whether more stringent measures were necessary.

For obvious reasons the Government are not at present prepared to give a more detailed reply to the question.

Number of prosecutions by the City Police.

142 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of prosecutions filed by the Madras City Police in the Presidency Magistrates' Court in 1921, 1922 and 1923, and

(*b*) the number of such cases which resulted in the acquittal or discharge of the accused by the Magistrates or by the High Court?

A.—A statement is given below :—

Year.	Number of cases prosecuted by the City Police in the Presidency Magistrates' Court.	Number convicted.	Number acquitted or discharged.
1921	1,505	1,351	154
1922	1,695	1,538	157
1923	2,057	1,853	204

N.B.—The figures do not include petty cases under the City Police Act disposed of by the Bench Courts.

Mr. Blackstone's Report.

143 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to lay on the table the report of Mr. Blackstone and the opinion of the District Magistrate regarding Penukonda and Dharmavaram divisions?

A.—The Government are not prepared to lay the report on the table. For a summary of its subject matter the hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 141.

Cutchi Memons' Act.

The Cutchi Memons' Act, 1920.

144 *Q.*—Mr. Yahya Ali: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the Government have issued a notification in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Cutchi Memons' Act, 1920 (India Act XLVI of 1920), prescribing the authority before whom and the form in which, the declaration, under section 2 of the said Act, should be made?

A.—The answer is in the affirmative—vide page 1288, Part I, *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st November 1922.